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Seventy-third year

The situation in the Middle East

The situation in Afghanistan

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the six States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization — the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan — I have the honour to transmit herewith three joint statements of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (see annexes I, II and III).* They were adopted on 26 September 2018, on the sidelines of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in New York.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 40, 68 (b) and 128 (t), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Ambassador

* The annexes are being circulated in English and the language of submission only.

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Annex I to the letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the situation in Afghanistan, the strengthening of the positions of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in the northern provinces of Afghanistan and the growth of the drug threat from the territory of Afghanistan

26 September 2018 New York

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) express their concern about the deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan, the high level of terrorist activity, the capacity of terrorist groups to carry out large-scale attacks on the administrative centres of Afghan provinces, and the large number of fighters amassed in close proximity to the southern borders of the Republic of Tajikistan, a State member of CSTO.

The States members of CSTO are particularly alarmed at the activities and the growth in membership of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, including in the country's northern provinces; this poses a challenge and a threat to the collective security of CSTO.

The States members of CSTO condemn attempts to foment interreligious and inter-ethnic strife, take note of the increasing number of high-profile terrorist attacks carried out in Afghanistan by the Afghan wing of ISIL and call upon the leadership of Afghanistan to take decisive steps to neutralize the group.

The States members of CSTO are concerned by the sharp increase in the amount of land used for drug cultivation in Afghanistan and the growth in drug production and expect the Government of Afghanistan to make more active efforts to combat the drug threat.

CSTO reaffirms its readiness to engage in constructive cooperation with all stakeholders to counter the challenges and threats originating from the territory of Afghanistan and to combat international terrorism.

The States members of CSTO call upon the international community to continue efforts to promote the peaceful development of Afghanistan, underscore the need to address the situation in Afghanistan through political and diplomatic means and welcome initiatives to promote the peace process, including the Moscow format and other negotiation processes.

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Tajikistan

Annex II to the letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on strengthening the Organization's cooperation with regional organizations and entities

26 September 2018 New York

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), reaffirming their commitment to the maintenance of peace and security, the adoption of effective collective measures to develop and strengthen regional security and the forging of friendly and mutually beneficial relations among international organizations and entities, declare that CSTO stands ready to expand mechanisms for cooperation with other regional organizations and entities and to build relationships with them that are based on trust and rooted in the Charter of the United Nations, the norms and principles of international law, the provisions of the Treaty on Collective Security and the CSTO Charter.

In the context of profound changes in global politics and the global economy and the emergence of new global and regional security challenges, the States members of CSTO underscore the need for mutually beneficial cooperation among the universally recognized regional organizations and entities that are working for the rejection of confrontation and conflicts, the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.

The States members of CSTO note the importance of further developing and strengthening the Organization's collaboration with regional organizations and entities, on the basis of respect for the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, the elimination of duplication and overlap, clear delineation of functions and complementarity. They emphasize the importance in that regard of strengthening constructive cooperation and practical interaction among regional organizations and entities, which will help to create a stable and favourable foundation for equal and indivisible security.

The States members of CSTO support deeper engagement by the Organization with relevant regional organizations and entities in the security field, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, and also increased dialogue with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the African Union. They attach particular importance in that regard to developing and deepening political collaboration between CSTO and the aforementioned regional organizations and entities, the continued strengthening of the legal and treaty framework and increased practical interaction among their working and executive bodies.

The States members of CSTO firmly condemn all manifestations of international terrorism and consistently advocate enhanced cooperation with all relevant regional organizations and entities, with the aim of forming a global system for countering international terrorism.

The States members of CSTO emphasize the need for appropriate steps to ensure international information security and declare their readiness to strengthen practical

cooperation with regional organizations in countering challenges and threats with regard to the information sphere and cybersecurity.

The States members of CSTO express their readiness to broaden their engagement with regional organizations and entities by pooling and intensifying efforts to eliminate the global problem of illicit drug production and trafficking. They welcome the increase in the number of regional organizations and entities involved in the "Kanal" regional anti-drug operation carried out within the framework of CSTO.

The States members of CSTO also declare their readiness to promote, in other international and regional organizations and entities in which they are full participants, the principles of mutually beneficial cooperation set out in this joint statement.

The States members of CSTO express their conviction that the further strengthening of cooperation with regional organizations and entities will contribute to enhancing the role of CSTO in the international arena as an effective collective mechanism for addressing current regional security issues.

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Tajikistan

Annex III to the letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on efforts to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and North Africa

26 September 2018 New York

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization express their concern about the persistent tension in the Middle East and North Africa region, primarily related to the unresolved crises in Syria, Yemen and Libya, and also about the high threat of terrorism.

They call for the conflicts to be settled exclusively through political and diplomatic means, with full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries in the region and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, on the basis of comprehensive and inclusive dialogue in which the United Nations and the Security Council play a fundamental role.

Condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and calling for joint efforts to combat this scourge, under the auspices of the United Nations and with a firm basis in international law, they welcome the contribution of the Russian Federation to eradicating the hotbed of international terrorism in Syria; this has paved the way for an end to the conflict and the achievement of a long-term political settlement in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and on the basis of the decisions of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue in Sochi and agreements reached within the framework of the Astana process that are designed to build momentum for improving the situation in Syria and to prepare the way for the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations.

Taking into account the positive developments in Syria, they call upon the international community to assist with the reconstruction of the country and the return of refugees.

They note that the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa do not alter the importance of achieving a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue as soon as possible for the sake of the long-term stabilization of the situation in the region.

They emphasize the need to pool international efforts with the aim of achieving a two-State solution to the Palestinian-Israeli issue based on the recognized principles of international law, including relevant Security Council resolutions.

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Tajikistan